

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of raising finishing swine and producing pork belly products, the method comprising:

feeding a daily feed ration to a pig, the daily ration comprising about 0.5 to less than about 5 percent by weight hydrogenated poultry fat greater than about 35; and

slaughtering the pig and harvesting a pork belly from the pig;

injecting the pork belly with flavoring and cooking the pork belly to a predetermined temperature;

pressing the pork belly into a predetermined shape; and

slicing the pork belly into bacon slices.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat is hydrogenated chicken fat.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the feeding step is performed on a daily basis for between about three and about eight weeks prior to slaughtering the pig.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the feeding step is performed on a daily basis after the pig has reached a weight of between about 100 and about 170 pounds.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat has an iodine value greater than about 35 and less than about 60.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat has an iodine value of greater than about 35 and less than about 45.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the feed ration further includes a second saturated fat source.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the second saturated fat source is tallow.
9. (Previously Presented) A method of feeding an animal comprising feeding the animal a daily feed ration comprising about 0.5 to less than about 5 percent by weight hydrogenated poultry fat, wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat has an iodine value of greater than about 35.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the animal is a pig.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat is feed to the pig on a daily basis for at least three weeks before the pig is slaughtered.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat is feed to the pig on a daily basis after the pig weighs at least 170 pounds.
13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the only fat source in the daily feed ration is hydrogenated poultry fat.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat has an iodine value of greater than about 35 and less than about 45.
15. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the feed ration further includes a second saturated fat source.
16. (Previously Presented) A feed ration for feeding finishing swine, the feed ration comprising a grain and about 0.5 to less than about 5 percent by weight hydrogenated poultry fat, wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat has an iodine value of greater than about 35.

17. (Original) The feed ration of claim 16 wherein the feed ration has an iodine value of about 40.

18. (Original) The feed ration of claim 17 wherein the hydrogenated poultry fat is hydrogenated chicken fat.

19. (Original) The feed ration of claim 16 further including a second saturated fat source.

20. (Original) The feed ration of claim 19 wherein the second saturated fat source is tallow.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein feeding a daily ration to a pig comprises feeding a first daily ration to a pig during a first phase, feeding a second daily ration to a pig during a second phase, and feeding a third daily ration to a pig during a third phase, wherein at least one of the first daily ration, the second daily ration, and the third daily ration is different from the other daily rations in weight percent of the hydrogenated poultry fat varies during aging and growth of the pig.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 4, wherein the weight percent of the hydrogenated poultry fat decreases from the first daily ration to the second daily ration to the third daily ration over a first, second, and third phase of a finishing diet.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the weight percent of the hydrogenated poultry fat is 3% in the first daily ration of the finishing diet, 2% in the second daily ration phase of the finishing diet, and 1% in the third daily ration phase of the finishing diet.